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Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Sign-up Announced

St. Paul, Minnesota, December 1, 2006—The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced today that a continuous sign-up for the EQIP program begins on December 4, 2006. Even though EQIP is a continuous signup program, all applications received by the close of business on January 31, 2007 will be scored and ranked and funding decisions made shortly thereafter.

EQIP is the heart of NRCS's working lands conservation programs. EQIP is the primary tool for landowners who want to put soil and water conservation on the ground. EQIP provides technical assistance and cost-share assistance payments to producers.

If you have natural resource concerns on your land and are interested in making a commitment to conservation, EQIP could be the answer you have been looking for.

The second scoring period for EQIP will run the entire month of February. Landowners and producers interested in EQIP are encouraged to do their EQIP sign-up early to improve the likelihood of being funded, since often times all funding is allocated during the initial scoring period.

To learn more about EQIP, contact your local NRCS field office or please visit the MN NRCS website: www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov